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Sectt. II-27—40,006—27-10-52.

Public (Firka Dev.) (1947) Department

Ms. SERIES.

G.O. No. 2800

Dated 9-9-1947.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Rural Reconst...on - Intensive work in selected firkas - Madras Legislative Assembly Question No. 693 (1052) regarding recruitment of Village Development Officers - Answered - Papers - Recorded.

293 - Question - MAHIN SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:- Will the Hon'ble the Prime Minister be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Food Department of the Government in their order No. 22100/K-46-3, dated 10th October 1946, asked the Collector of South Kanara to instruct the Firka Development Officer in Kumbla of Kasaragod taluk (South Kanara district) to draw up a list of eligible candidates for the post of village Development Officers in connexion with the Rural Reconstruction Scheme, in consultation with the leading Congressmen and prominent landholders and agriculturists of the firka; and

(b) the reason why the Congressmen alone, and not any other political parties like Muslim League, were singled out for such consultation in the selection of candidates for the posts of Village Development Officers?

THE HON'BLE SRI. T. PRAKASAM:- (a) Yes.

(b) The question itself makes it clear that the consultation was not to be confined to leading Congressmen alone and that prominent agriculturists and landholders under which category public-spirited agriculturists of all schools of political thought would come were also to be consulted.

MAHIN SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:- May I know, while in the order, Congressmen were actually mentioned, why no mention was made about the Muslim League, which is equally a strong party in the place?

THE HON'BLE SRI. T. PRAKASAM:- If there was any such mistake allowed to have crept in, it will be corrected, Sir.

MAHIN SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:- May I know, Sir, whether the Government is aware that when the Assistant Development Commissioner went to Cumbla to interview candidates for selection to Village Development Officers' posts, he took khaddar-wearing as a qualification for the post?

THE HON'BLE SRI. T. PRAKASAM:- Well, Sir, this is with reference to the selection of candidates for a special firka in the district for development and it is only natural that the officer in charge of the business should have some special consideration for those who had been used to wearing khaddar and who wish to know how to spin and how to weave, if possible.

SRI. U. PADMANABHA MALLAYYA:- May I know whether it is not a fact that many of the Village Development Officers who were selected are not khaddar-wearers and one of them is a Muslim?

THE HON'BLE SRI. T. PRAKASAM:- I take the information from the Hon'ble Member.

MAHIN SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:- May I know why those candidates who said they could not wear khaddar, as their position did not allow them to do so on account of the high price of khaddar, were not selected?

THE HON'BLE SRI. T. PRAKASAM:- The reason cannot be given, and the fact also has to be ascertained. I shall note the fact if given by the Hon'ble Member.

MOHAMED RAFEEUDIN AHMAD ANSARI SAHIB BAHADUR:- May I know the number of Mussalmans employed under the Rural Reconstruction Scheme?

THE HON'BLE SRI. T. PRAKASAM:- Notice; I shall give the information later.

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:- Arising out of the answer of the Hon'ble the Premier, do I understand that the Government seeks to make a discrimination between one class of people and another in entertaining candidates to the services in this Government and that

only people wearing khadi and belonging to only one class will be selected and people who do not wear a particular kind of cloth will not be selected; is that the policy of the Government?

THE HON'BLE SRI. T. PRAKASAM:- It is not at allthe policy of theGovernment; it is never the intention of Government to make discrimination; but as a human institution, the Government will certainly go into the case of each individual and consider whether that gentleman would be qualified and would be competent to take up the job and carry on the work.

SRI. PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:- May I know from the answer given by the Prime Minister, that those who wear khaddar know spinning also?

THE HON'BLE SRI. T. PRAKASAM:- Certainly not, Sir.

MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:- Is it not desirable, Sir, and also necessary that Government should not belong to this political party or that political party?

THE HON'BLE SRI. T. PRAKASAM:- Yes; they should not belong to any political party; but I will be very glad if all Government servants can be supplied with khaddar cloth by Government, so that they may also wear it.

SRI. V.I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:- May I inform the Government that the man who was appointed in Nilgiris does not wear khaddar and does not belong to any political party?

MR. SPEAKER:- You have given information.

MOHAMED RAFEEUDIN AHMAD ANSARI SAHIB BAHADUR:- May I know whether it is fact that theCollectors under whom they are supposed to work were not consulted when these appointments of development officers were made by theGovernment?

THE HON'BLE SRI. T. PRAKASAM:- Well, Sir, I can understand such appointments being made without consulting the Collectors when the Government themselves know the persons.

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:- Arising out of the previous answer of the Hon'ble Premier, is it the intention of Government to make the wearing of khaddar a rule to be followed by the Government servants?

THE HON'BLE SRI. T. PRAKASAM:- No, Sir, certainly not.

SRI. S. NAGAPPA:- May I know, in view of the fact that much has to be done in the way of development in the villages, especially in Harijan localities, whether Government have given proper representation to Harijans among village officers? If so, what is the representation?

THE HON'BLE SRI. T. PRAKASAM:- No answer can be given without going into the matter.

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:- Is it not a fact, in spite of the statement made by the Premier, that the Government are following a policy of discrimination between one class of people and another in the service of Government?

THE HON'BLE SRI. T.PRAKASAM:- Certainly, we are nowhere near that suggestion.

SRI. S. NAGAPPA:- Will the Hon'ble Premier be pleased to call for the information required by me.

THE HON'BLE SRI. T. PRAKASAM:- Yes, I have already said that.

MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:- The Hon'ble Premier has answered clause (a) of the question in the affirmative, that is to say, that the Government Order called upon the officers concerned, to consult leading Congressmen and not men of any other political party, why did that happen, Sir.

THE HON'BLE SRI. T. PRAKASAM:- There is no inconsistency between that and between the selected candidates without the recommendation of theCollectors.

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/True copy/

Office Assistant,
Madras Record Office.

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FOOD DEPARTMENT

Please see the reply received from theCollector of Vizagapatam, and its enclosure at pages 81-83 d.f. Particulars regarding the number of Muslims employed under the Rural Reconstruction Scheme have been received from all Collectors and is tabulated in the statement put up at flag (M). Information regarding Muslims employed in the Firka Development Establishment was collected with reference to the orders at 'B' on page 4 ante. No further action seems necessary. For orders whether the papers may now be recorded as G.O. Miscellaneous.

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5.9.

G.O. Ms. No. 2800 dated 9.9.1947.

Rural Reconstruction - Intensive work in selected firkas - Madras Legislative Assembly Question No. 698 (1052) Regarding recruitment of Village Development Officers - Answered - Papers - Recorded.

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/True copy/

R. Thiagarajan

Office Assistant,
Madras Record Office.